Pilot Plan Starts

Girls in Groups Find New Life In Foster Home

Something new has been added to Victoria's foster parents' plan.

It's a group foster home begun in January by the Family and Children's Service.

The Service has equipped an attractive bungalow near Beacon Hill Park with furnishings, food, and above all, parents.

It's only one of the many projects of the Service — a brand-new idea in helping the teen-ager, unable to live at home because of unfavorable conditions.

TOO-OLD CHILD

The idea for a group home accommodating more than one or two foster children sprang from the sheer necessity of solving the problem of the too-old foster child.

It seems babies are welcome but teeners not so attractive to the foster parent.

The Service is attempting to solve this problem with the first of many such group homes where teen-aged girls from 13 to 17 will have the chance to gain from a healthy, normal family relationship.

The "parents" are Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Smythe and they have their own family of two, a daughter, 11, and a son, five.

ALL ONE FAMILY

The rest of the family are four teen-aged girls, complete strangers to each other and to the Smythes until last January when the home was opened.

Their home is a lovely bungalow with spacious grounds at the side and back, well-appointed interior and all the equipment the average family needs.

It's within walking distance to Dallas Road and the beach and Beacon Hill Park.

The backyard has been carefully landscaped with a small rock waterfall and two pool basins and a glassed-in side porch that was once a greenhouse.

The whole atmosphere is convivial and homey.

HUGE KITCHEN

The interior is well-appointed with a modern living room decorated in greys and bright splashes of color and a huge kitchen set in the middle of the house.

The girls' bedrooms are the kind every girl dreams of—done in pinks and greens with chintzy curtains with the personal touch of favorite rock 'n' roll stars' pictures and a cuddly animal or two.

The house has been furnished by the women's auxiliary to the Service.

Everyone pitches in to help Mrs. Smythe with the chores; every girl looks after her own laundry and takes turns at dish washing, table setting, etc. Each of the four girls in residence attends one of the city's high schools.

NOT MANY RULES

Rules are practically non-existent. Certain hours are kept but on the whole, the girls have a great amount of freedom. They're encouraged to date and to bring friends home where they may entertain.

A television set that's been "borrowed" from the Service's Sunshine Camp has kept everyone entertained but Mrs. Smythe is hoping someone will donate a set of their own as well as a record player.

The Service pays the bills, the rent, the clothing budget to outfit each girl.

They do this as only one of their efforts on an operating budget of about $260,000 of which $68,000 came this year from the community chest.

TWO EMPTY BEDS

The house accomodates six girls and at present there are two empty beds soon to be filled.

Mrs. Smythe as housemother, friend, guardian and business manager likes her work although she has had no formal training as a social worker. She's typical of a friendly warm type of person you can find in homes clear across the country.

David Woodsworth, director of the Family and Children's Service centre, is very enthusiastic over the group foster home idea. He hopes in the near future to be able to rent or buy several more houses for the same use and put in them families like the Smythes.

City Girl to Wed Ontario Man

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil T. Reeve, 1312 Gladstone Avenue announce the engagement of their daughter, Judith, Virginia, to Mr. Lewis Victor Carveth, son of Mr. A. Carveth, Peterboro, Ont., and the late Mrs. Carveth. The wedding will take place April 18 at 9 p.m. in Centennial United Church. Attendants for the bride will be Miss Janet Harper, Miss Jacqueline Reeve, Miss Irene Peacy, with Mr. Bill Reeve best man and Mr. Ron Steeves and Mr. Bob Pearce as ushers.—(Photos by Kandid Kamera.)

Fight on Merit, Says Woman Mayor

Women Foster Battle of Sexes

VANCOUVER (CP) — The average man would forget the battle of the sexes if women forgot it first, Mayor Elizabeth Wood of New Westminster said in an address here.

She said she won her election not because she is a woman but because she has the qualities needed for office—ability, integrity and intestinal fortitude.

She noted that since the first woman was elected to the Canadian Parliament 38 years ago, only nine women have reached Parliament Hill though women form one half the voting strength of Canada.

"One of the reasons we have so few women in public office is that women do not aspire to these offices," Mayor Wood said.

"As women we are too easily defeated. We should not feel this way, particularly when women have not shirked in industry or other fields.

"In my 14 years of seeking office I never recognized that there is a difference between men and women candidates.

"I give no quarter, I ask no quarter. I do not feel inferior to men. I do not feel superior to men with whom I work.

"No woman has a right to be appointed to any board because she is a woman, but only because she is outstanding."

$5 just for your opinion!

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Look Frothy on Top Frail in the Middle

NEW YORK (WNS) — The stylish blouse this summer will be worn with tail tucked in and shoulders thrown out.

Overblouses are passe, says designer Rhoda Lee.

"After two years, people are bored with the chemise look. The overblouse now is strictly for pants," she explains.

"The new style is the tucked-in look all over again—combined with big, blowy sleeves. You're supposed to look frothy on top and frail in the middle."

Nothing looks more feminine than a wisp of blouse with full fancy sleeves—and that's exactly what the new style boils down to.

The blouses are thin, too—so one has to wear a camisole under them.

With pleated skirts, a loose-ish blouse is okay. But with every other kind of skirt, the "waistline must fit."

"Get at least six inches of shirttail to tuck below the waist," adds Miss Lee. "And make sure the waist is snug. Big sleeves and a tight waist make the bosom line look better."

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